

VARIOUS STATIONS IN
THE NEW YORK AREA

May 14, 1961

LET'S LOOK AT CONGRESS

CIA MUST BE UNDER CHECK OF CONGRESS

Senator Kenneth B. Keating, Republican, New York, interviewed Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon, who is the Chairman of Latin American Subcommittee of Committee on Foreign Relations, and the following was heard, in part:

KEATING: "Do you think as a result of this Cuban episode that it's likely that the administration will consult more closely with Congress in the future?"

MORSE: "Well all I can say, Senator Keating, is that we made perfectly clear to the Secretary of State, when he was before us for over three hours, that we did not appreciate the fact that this administration had not consulted with the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate. We had a great body of information in the files of our committee. In fact, the Senate voted 150 thousand dollars to the Latin American Subcommittee for a study of Latin American affairs which we've been conducting for the past several years. Not a bit of that information was made use of by the administration.

"Had the administration made use of it, in my judgment, the President would have had to change his mind in regard to the very bad advice that he obviously was given by CIA, by the Pentagon Building and by the State Department. Also we need to recognize as free Americans that the Congress, consisting of the elected officials of the people, does have an obligation to place a check upon any administration--Republican or Democratic--in regard to foreign policy. Don't forget, we've entered into an era now where a little group of men can really get you into war by following a course of action in some part of the world, and declarations of war these days are going to be after the fact, not before the fact. So as representatives of the people, Congress has a duty to insist that an administration take it into its confidence. Let's be frank about it. I support my administration--I'm going to support my administration even more because I think it's made a great mistake and it needs support now more than ever before. But my administration made a mistake in not consulting with the Congress before it went ahead with the very poor advice it got in regard to the Cuban invasion."

KEATING: "Do you favor creating a Joint Congressional Committee to supervise the CIA?"

MORSE: "I strongly shall favor the so-called McCarthy bill. I favored it when it was introduced by Mansfield, the Majority Leader. The CIA must be checked. Watch out for the development in this country of government by secrecy. The fact is that the great secret powers of CIA cannot be reconciled with our system of democratic constitutional checks. The CIA must be brought under the check of the Congress of the United States."